

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VALLET 02863 060745Z

ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 MCE-00 ACDA-12
CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08
AID-05 /102 W

-----120767 060804Z /10

R 060731Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8451

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USNATO

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 02863

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, LY, MT

SUBJECT: LIBYAN HELICOPTERS ARRIVE IN MALTA

REFS: A) USDAO VALLETTA 2809 DTG 011215Z SEP 78 (NOTAL)

- B) USDAO VALLETTA 2787 DTG 310825Z AUG 78 (NOTAL)

1. THE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE SEEN THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S
REPORTS CONCERNING THE ARRIVAL OF LIBYAN HELICOPTERS IN
MALTA LAST WEEK. THE LOCAL PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS REPORTED
ON SEPTEMBER 4 THAT THREE FRENCH ALLOUETTE MARK III
HELICOPTERS AND ONE SUPER FRELON HELICOPTER WERE TRANS-
PORTED TO MALTA ON AUGUST 30 AND 31 ALONG WITH SPARE
PARTS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT. THESE REPORTS ALSO STATED
THAT THE HELICOPTERS HAVE BEEN "DONATED" TO THE GOM AND
WILL BE USED FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE AS WELL AS MILITARY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VALLET 02863 060745Z

PURPOSES. THE MALTESE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT OFFICIALLY CON-
FIRMED OR DENIED THIS REPORT. (FYI: IN ADDITION TO THESE
FOUR HELICOPTERS LIBYA HAS OPERATED A SUPER FRELON FROM
MALTA SINCE 1975 AND DONATED TO THE GOM A BELL JET RANGER
HELICOPTER IN JUNE 1973. THE GOM ALSO HAS FOUR BELL
47GII HELICOPTERS WHICH WERE GIVEN TO IT BY FRG IN APRIL
1972).

2. THESE PRESS REPORTS ALSO STATED THAT LIBYAN TECHNICIANS AND PILOTS WILL TRAIN MALTESE PERSONNEL TO FLY AND MAINTAIN THESE HELICOPTERS. (WE ASSUME THAT, IN THE MEANWHILE, THE LIBYANS WILL FLY AND MAINTAIN THEM.) WE HAVE HEARD FROM RELIABLE SOURCES THAT 40 TO 50 LIBYAN MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE ARRIVED SO FAR.

3. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER ASPIN TOLD THE CHARGE SEPTEMBER 5 THAT HE DOES NOT EXPECT THAT HMG WILL VIEW THIS DEVELOPMENT AS A VIOLATION OF THE MILITARY FORCES AGREEMENT (MFA) BECAUSE THE HELICOPTERS HAVE ALLEGEDLY BEEN DONATED BY THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT AND THE MFA DOES NOT PROHIBIT MILITARY TRAINING MISSIONS. ASPIN ALSO NOTED THAT THE MALTESE WILL HAVE A LEGITIMATE REQUIREMENT FOR A SEARCH AND RESCUE CAPABILITY AFTER THE RAF CEASES TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE ON OCTOBER 1. THE BRITISH INITIALLY WERE CONCERNED, ACCORDING TO ASPIN, ABOUT THE SAFETY IMPLICATIONS OF THIS AUGMENTATION BECAUSE THE RAF IS RESPONSIBLE FOR AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL UNTIL THE TERMINATION OF THE BASE AGREEMENT IN MARCH, 1979; THE GOM AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT ALL FLIGHTS BY THESE HELICOPTERS WILL BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE RAF.

4. COMMENT: WHETHER THE LIBYANS HAVE GIVEN THESE HELICOPTERS TO THE ARMED FORCES OF MALTA (AFM) OR NOT, A SIZABLE LIBYAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN MALTA WILL BE NEEDED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VALLET 02863 060745Z

TO FLY AND MAINTAIN THEM FOR SOME TIME TO COME. THE AFM ONLY HAS FOUR QUALIFIED HELICOPTER PILOTS FOR TEN HELICOPTERS AND THOSE FOUR HAVE NO EXPERIENCE WITH ALLOUETTES OR SUPER FRELONS. WILSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, HELICOPTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VALLET02863
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780362-0499
Format: TEL
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780995/aaaadbfg.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3d166956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1525415
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIBYAN HELICOPTERS ARRIVE IN MALTA
TAGS: MASS, LY, MT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3d166956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014